



CALIFORNIA FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK

Description

The California First Responder Network (CalFRN) is composed of Board of Directors who will serve as California's coordinating body to negotiate with the Federal First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The CalFRN Board will oversee California's plan to establish, formalize and institutionalize a process to support the statewide public safety network, which will be part of the larger scale Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN).

Background

In February 2012, Congress enacted The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 containing provisions to advance public safety capabilities in the United States. It directs the establishment of a state-of-the-art NPSBN for use by first responders and other public safety workers.

Each governor is responsible to implement the NPSBN in his or her state, including state, county, city, and tribal public safety agencies that support first responders. This includes either opting in or opting out of the nationwide network. If a state opts out, it **must** develop a network that provides interoperability and connectivity to the nationwide network, and have approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

On August 27, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Karen Wong, Assistant Director, of Public Safety Communications, as the point of contact in coordination with Director Mark Ghilarducci of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to consult with the FirstNet Board.

California's Goal

The CalFRN Board of Director Members will work with the national FirstNet Board to ensure that the development of the NPSBN is a success. The CalFRN Board also provides a liaison for local governments, law enforcement, fire, tribal etc.

Key Information

- In November 2013, the CalFRN Board of Directors was established and consist of members with a cross-section of public safety and telecommunications expertise
- The CalFRN Board of Directors will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, every other month from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm alternating from in-person meetings to conference/webinar calls.
- The first CalFRN Board of Directors meeting was held on February 5, 2014
- Three public forums will be held in California in Summer 2014
- A survey will go out to first responders and stakeholders to gather information on the current network infrastructure in California and provide feedback regarding implementation of a first responder network
- The CalFRN Board will submit a survey update to FirstNet by Summer 2014
- The CalFRN Board's focus is on supporting first responders and providing the foundation for first responders to receive text, video, and data
- The NPSBN must be highly reliable to support public safety communications and must transmit real time, mission critical data